

Claims:

1. A beverage making machine having a housing, a funnel positionable relative to the housing, and a funnel blocking device for preventing unintended disengagement of the funnel from the housing, the funnel blocking device comprising:
a first engager positioned on at least one of the housing and the funnel, and a second engager positioned on the other of the housing and funnel; and
whereby the first and second engagers are engageable to prevent unintended removal of the funnel from the housing and selectively disengageable for removal of the funnel from the housing.
2. The beverage making machine as in Claim 1, the blocking device further comprising:
the first engager including a bracket displaceably retained on the housing and the second engager including a portion on the funnel for engagement by the bracket.
3. The beverage making machine of Claim 2 further comprising the bracket defining a slot which is sized in dimension for engagement with a portion of the funnel.
4. The beverage making machine of Claim 2, the bracket further comprising a first extension and a second extension, the first and second extensions being spaced apart and defining a gap there between, the first and second extensions extending relative to the funnel for engaging a portion of the funnel to prevent disengagement of the funnel from the housing.
5. The beverage making machine of Claim 1, at least one of the first and second engagers including an extending portion which is normally positioned relative to the housing for engagement with the other of the first and second engagers.
6. The beverage making machine of Claim 5, the extending portion being displaceable when receiving a funnel on the housing and engageable with the second engager.
7. The beverage making machine as in Claim 6, further comprising the first engager including the extending portion being displaceable upon movement of a funnel to position on the housing and being positively engaged with the second engager, the first engager requiring a force to be applied thereto for disengaging the first engager from the second engager.
8. The beverage making machine of Claim 1, further comprising the first engager having a biased extending structure normally biased extending for engagement with a second engager, the second engager being carried on the funnel, positioning of the funnel and the corresponding second engager biasedly engaging the biased extending structure for retaining the funnel against unintended removal from the housing.
9. The beverage making machine as in Claim 8, the first engager including a body positionable on the housing, the body including a cavity, a shaft carried on the body and extending through at least a portion of the cavity, a biasing member associated with the shaft and retained in the

cavity for biasing the shaft in a normally extending engaging position, and a handle coupled to the shaft for opposing the biasing force of the biasing member for facilitating disengagement of the shaft from the second engager.

10. The beverage making machine as in Claim 8, the second engager comprising a sloped edge oriented for abutting a portion of the first engager, a second edge positioned proximate to the sloped edge for resisting disengagement of the portion of the first engager after engagement with the second engager.

11. A blocking device for use with a beverage making machine having a housing and a funnel positionable relative to a corresponding housing, the blocking device preventing unintended disengagement of a funnel from a corresponding housing, the blocking device comprising:

a first engager positionable on at least one of a housing and a funnel, and a second engager positioned on the other of a housing and a funnel; and

whereby the first and second engagers are engageable when associated with a funnel and a housing to prevent unintended removal of a funnel from a corresponding housing and selectively disengageable for removal of a funnel from a corresponding housing.

12. The blocking device as in Claim 11, the blocking device further comprising:
the first engager including a bracket displaceably retained on a housing and the second engager including a portion on a funnel for engagement by the bracket.

13. The blocking device of Claim 12 further comprising the bracket defining a slot which is sized in dimension for engagement with a portion of a funnel.

14. The blocking device of Claim 12, the bracket further comprising a first extension and a second extension, the first and second extensions being spaced apart and defining a gap there between, the first and second extensions extending relative to a funnel for engaging a portion of a funnel to prevent disengagement of a funnel from a corresponding housing to which the bracket is attached.

15. The blocking device of Claim 11, at least one of the first and second engagers including an extending portion which is normally positioned when attached to a housing for engagement with the other of the first and second engagers.

16. The blocking device of Claim 15, the extending portion being displaceable when receiving a funnel on the housing and engageable with the second engager.

17. The blocking device of Claim 16, further comprising the first engager including the extending portion being displaceable upon movement of a funnel to position on a corresponding housing and being positively engaged with the second engager, the first engager requiring a force to be applied thereto for disengaging the first engager from the second engager.

18. The blocking device of Claim 11, further comprising the first engager having a biased extending structure normally biased extending for engagement with a second engager, the second engager being carried on a funnel, positioning of a funnel and the corresponding second engager biasedly engaging the biased extending structure for retaining a funnel against unintended removal from a corresponding housing.

19. The blocking device of Claim 18, the first engager including a body positionable on a housing, the body defining a cavity, a shaft cooperatively associated with the body and extending through at least a portion of the cavity, a biasing member associated with the shaft and retained in the cavity for biasing the shaft in a normally extending engaging position, and a handle coupled to the shaft for opposing the biasing force of the biasing member to facilitate disengagement of the shaft from the second engager.

20. The blocking device of Claim 18, the second engager comprising a sloped edge oriented for abutting a portion of the first engager, a second edge positioned proximate to the sloped edge, for resisting disengagement of the portion of the first engager after engagement with the second engager.

21. A kit including a blocking device for attachment to a beverage making machine of the type having a housing and a funnel positionable relative to the housing, the blocking device preventing unintended disengagement of a funnel from a corresponding housing, the kit including:
the blocking device having a first engager and a second engager,
the first engager of the blocking device positionable on at least one of a housing and a funnel;
the second engager positionable on the other of a housing and a funnel; and
whereby the first and second engagers are engageable when associated with a funnel and a housing to prevent unintended removal of a funnel from a corresponding housing and selectively disengageable for removal of a funnel from a corresponding housing.

22. The kit of claim 21 further including at least one attacher for attaching at least the first engager to the housing.

23. The kit in Claim 22 further comprising:
the first engager including a bracket for displaceable attachment on a housing and the second engager including a portion on a funnel for engagement by the bracket, the first engager being sized and dimensioned for cooperative engagement with the second engager.

24. The kit of Claim 23 further comprising the bracket defining a slot which is sized in dimension for engagement with a portion of a funnel.

25. The kit of Claim 23, the bracket further comprising a first extension and a second extension, the first and second extensions being spaced apart and defining a gap there between, the

first and second extensions extending relative to a funnel for engaging a portion of a funnel to prevent disengagement of a funnel from a corresponding housing to which the bracket is attached.

26. The kit of Claim 21, at least one of the first and second engagers including an extending portion which is normally positioned when attached to a housing for engagement with the other of the first and second engagers.

27. The kit of Claim 26, the extending portion being displaceable when receiving a funnel on the housing and engageable with the second engager.

28. The kit of Claim 27, further comprising the first engager including the extending portion being displaceable upon movement of a funnel to position on a corresponding housing and being positively engaged with the second engager, the first engager requiring a force to be applied thereto for disengaging the first engager from the second engager.

29. The kit of Claim 22, further comprising the first engager having a biased extending structure normally biased extending for engagement with a second engager, the second engager being carried on a funnel, positioning of a funnel and the corresponding second engager biasedly engaging the biased extending structure for retaining a funnel against unintended removal from a corresponding housing.

30. The kit of Claim 29, the first engager including a body positionable on a housing, the body including a cavity, a shaft carried on the body and extending through at least a portion of the cavity, a biasing member associated with the shaft and retained in the cavity for biasing the shaft in a normally extending engaging position, and a handle coupled to the shaft for opposing the biasing force of the biasing member for facilitating disengagement of the shaft from the second engager.

31. The kit of Claim 28, the second engager comprising a sloped edge oriented for abutting a portion of the first engager, a second edge positioned approximate to the sloped edge, for resisting disengagement of the portion of the first engager after engagement with the second engager.

32. A method of retaining a funnel on a beverage making machine against unintentional removal, the beverage making machine having a housing with the funnel being positionable relative to the housing, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a blocking device;

providing a first engager of the blocking device that is attached to the housing of the beverage making machine;

a second engager positioned on the funnel; and

positioning the funnel in relation to the beverage making machine for facilitating making a beverage;

engaging the first engager and second engager.

33. The method of claim 32 further comprising the step of:
selectively disengaging the first and second engagers to facilitate selective removal of the funnel from the housing.

34. The method of claim 33 further comprising:
providing a pivot first engager in the form of a pivotable bracket;
pivotably attaching the bracket to the housing in a position for engaging a portion of the funnel.

35. The method of claim 32 further comprising:
a slot defined on the bracket; and
selectively positioning the slot in engagement with the second engager for engaging the funnel on the housing.

36. The method of claim 32 further comprising:
positioning a portion of the funnel in close proximity the first engager;
pushing the funnel against a portion of the first engager;
displacing the portion of the first engager against which the funnel presses to facilitate movement of the funnel into engagement with the housing;
returning the portion of the first engager to a normally extending position to engage the second engager.

37. The method of claim 36 further comprising:
providing an extending shaped portion from the first engager for receiving a force from the funnel to displace the first engager relative to the funnel.

38. The method of claim 36 further comprising:
providing a biased extending portion;
biasing the extending portion in a normally extended position;
positioning the funnel in a location to engage the normally extending biased portion with the second engager.

39. The method of claim 38 further comprising:
selectively displacing the biased extending portion away from the second engager for disengaging the first engager from the second engager; and
retaining the biased extending portion out of engagement with a second engager for removal of the funnel from the housing; and
releasing the biased extending portion for extending engagement with a subsequent funnel.

40. A blocking device for use with a beverage making machine having a housing and a funnel positionable relative to the housing, the blocking device preventing unintended disengagement of a funnel from a corresponding housing, the blocking device comprising:

a bracket pivotably retained on the housing of the beverage making machine;

an extending portion of the bracket extending from the housing for interfering with movement of a funnel retained on the housing; and

a second engagement portion on the funnel for cooperative engagement with the bracket to facilitate retaining the funnel on the housing against unintended disengagement from the housing and facilitating selective disengagement of the funnel from the housing.

41. The blocking device of claim 40, the blocking device further comprising: providing a slot on the bracket for cooperative engagement with the second engager on the funnel.

42. The blocking device of claim 40 further comprising: a first end of the bracket being pivotable relative to the housing; a second end of the bracket providing displaceable retention of the second end on the housing for facilitating limited movement of the bracket relative to the housing.

43. The blocking device of claim 42 further comprising: a slot formed in the second end of the bracket and a guide attached to the housing, the guide riding in the slot for limiting the range of movement of the bracket relative to the first end.

44. The blocking device of claim 40, the bracket further comprising a first extension and a second extension, the first and second extensions being spaced apart and defining a gap therebetween, the first and second extensions extending relative to a funnel for engaging a portion of a funnel therebetween to prevent disengagement of a funnel from a corresponding housing to which the bracket is attached.

45. The blocking device of claim 44, the bracket further comprising a shaped surface on the first extension being shaped for facilitating displacement of the bracket while engaging a funnel against the shaped surface.

46. A blocking device for use with a beverage making machine having a housing and funnel positionable relative to the housing, the blocking device preventing unintended disengagement of a funnel from a corresponding housing, the blocking device comprising a body positionable on a housing, the body defining a cavity therein, a shaft cooperatively associated with the body and extending through at least a portion of the cavity, a biasing member associated with the shaft and retained in the cavity for biasing the shaft in a normally extending engaging position, and a

handle coupled to the shaft for opposing the biasing force of the biasing member to facilitate disengagement of the shaft from a second engager carried on a funnel.

47. The blocking device of claim 46, the second engager comprising a sloped edge oriented for abutting a corresponding surface of the shaft extending from the body, a second edge positioned proximate to the sloped edge for resisting disengagement of the shaft after engagement with the second engager.

48. The blocking device of claim 47 further comprising the handle being operable to displace the shaft a dimension generally equal to the corresponding dimension of the second edge to facilitate clearing the shaft when removing a funnel from the housing, the handle operating against the biasing force of the biasing member to displace the shaft.

49. The blocking device of claim 47 further comprising a trigger and an associated trigger lever, the trigger and trigger lever being operatively associated with the body for displacing the shaft against the biasing member to facilitate disengagement of a funnel from a housing.